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AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2010

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 35**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani**

December 1, 2008

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An act *to amend, repeal, and add Section 51225.3 of, and to add Section 88550.7 to, the Education Code, and to add Section 14013.5 to the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to education.*

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 35, as amended, Furutani. Education: *career technical education and workforce development.*

~~Under~~

*(1) Existing law prohibits a pupil from receiving a diploma of graduation from high school unless he or she completes specified requirements, including, but not limited to, completing one course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.*

*This bill, commencing with the 2011–12 school year and until July 1, 2016, would add completion of a course in career technical education, as defined, as an alternative to the requirement that a pupil complete a course in visual or performing arts or foreign language. The bill*

would require the State Department of Education to report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2015, the number of pupils who took a career technical education course in order to fulfill this graduation requirement.

(2) Under existing law, the public school system of the state includes, among other schools, secondary and technical schools. Existing law provides for various career technical and workforce preparation programs in the public schools.

Existing law also establishes the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges as the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law declares that it is the intent of the Legislature that those institutions provide a collegiate experience that gives each student specified skills and that an undergraduate education prepare students to have the flexibility to adapt to, among other things, new workforce needs.

Existing law establishes the California Workforce Investment Board as the body responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce investment system. Existing law declares that the board is appointed by the Governor to assist in the development of the State Workforce Investment Plan.

This bill would require the California Workforce Investment Board ~~and~~, the Office of the Chancellor, and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to develop a strategic plan, containing specified elements, for connecting education and workforce development in the state. The bill would require the board and the Office of the Chancellor to cooperate with the State Department of Education, *the California Postsecondary Education Commission*, and representatives from education, business, and labor organizations to make specified recommendations in the strategic plan. The bill would require the board and the Office of the Chancellor to report their recommendations for the strategic plan to the Governor and the Legislature on or before July 1, 2011, and would require the Office of the Chancellor to provide the staffing and resources necessary for developing and reporting the strategic plan.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to develop a strategic plan in the education system for workforce preparation and career technical education.

SEC. 2. *Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to read:*

51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school:

(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless otherwise specified:

(A) Three courses in English.

(B) Two courses in mathematics.

(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences.

(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics.

(E) (i) *One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or, commencing with the 2011–12 school year, career technical education.*

~~(E)~~

(ii) ~~One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.~~ For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language.

(iii) *For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career technical education” means a course in a district-operated career technical education program that is aligned to the career technical model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state board.*

(iv) *This subparagraph does not require a school or school district that currently does not offer career technical education courses to start new career technical education programs for purposes of this section.*

(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

(2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing board of the school district.

(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may include practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other outside school experience, career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the district from another school district or between high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

(d) (1) *On or before January 1, 2015, the department shall report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature the number of pupils who took a career technical education course in order to fulfill the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). A school district may report the number of career technical education courses taken by pupils to fulfill the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.*

(2) *The report shall include information on the factors that influenced the pupils' choices, including, but not limited to, the number and type of career technical courses that were available, the number of career technical education courses that were A-G approved, the extent to which the courses met local workforce needs, and the impact on visual and performing arts and foreign language courses that resulted from pupils choosing to take career technical education classes to fulfill the requirement.*

*(e) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and, as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

*SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to read:*

*51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school:*

*(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects specified, each course having a duration of one year; unless otherwise specified:*

*(A) Three courses in English.*

*(B) Two courses in mathematics.*

*(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences.*

*(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics.*

*(E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language.*

*(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.*

*(2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing board of the school district.*

*(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,*

1 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
2 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
3 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
4 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
5 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and  
6 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course  
7 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

8 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district  
9 shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other  
10 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that  
11 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified  
12 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,  
13 transfers into the district from another school district or between  
14 high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding  
15 that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional  
16 requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she  
17 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A  
18 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted  
19 an exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate,  
20 the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the  
21 pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the  
22 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational  
23 institution and shall provide information about transfer  
24 opportunities available through the California Community  
25 Colleges.

26 (d) This section shall become operative July 1, 2016.

27 ~~SEC. 2.~~

28 SEC. 4. Section 88550.7 is added to the Education Code, to  
29 read:

30 88550.7. (a) The California Workforce Investment Board, the  
31 Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges,  
32 and the Board of the Governors of the California Community  
33 Colleges shall develop a strategic plan for connecting education  
34 and workforce development in the state as part of the board's next  
35 revision of the California Strategic Plan for Title I of the Workforce  
36 Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner-Peyser Act. In cooperation  
37 with the State Department of Education, the California  
38 Postsecondary Education Commission, and representatives from  
39 education, business, and labor organizations, the board and the  
40 Office of the Chancellor shall make recommendations in the

1 strategic plan that address the contribution of academic and career  
2 technical education, at all levels of education, to workforce  
3 development.

4 (b) The strategic plan shall include, but is not limited to, all of  
5 the following provisions:

6 (1) How the state determines appropriate measures for evaluating  
7 and collecting data on future workforce needs.

8 (2) The alignment of workforce needs with future postsecondary  
9 education programs and capacity at both the state and regional  
10 levels.

11 (3) Strategies for fostering long-term improvements in workers'  
12 skills and knowledge.

13 (4) Methods for closing the skills gap and strengthening the  
14 nexus between education and the workforce.

15 (5) Appropriate measures for improving data collection on future  
16 workforce needs.

17 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the board and the Office  
18 of the Chancellor solicit input from K-12 and postsecondary  
19 education institutions, local workforce investment boards, regional  
20 occupational centers and programs, adult school programs, and  
21 other appropriate governmental entities in developing  
22 recommendations for the strategic plan.

23 (d) (1) The board and the Office of the Chancellor shall report  
24 their recommendations for the strategic plan to the Governor and  
25 the Legislature on or before July 1, 2011.

26 (2) (A) The requirement for submitting the report imposed  
27 under paragraph (1) is inoperative on January 1, 2015, pursuant  
28 to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

29 (B) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be  
30 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government  
31 Code.

32 (e) The Office of the Chancellor of the California Community  
33 Colleges shall provide the staffing and resources necessary for  
34 developing and reporting the strategic plan developed pursuant to  
35 this section.

36 (f) For purposes of this section, "board" means the California  
37 Workforce Investment Board established pursuant to Article 1  
38 (commencing with Section 14010) of Chapter 3 of Division 7 of  
39 the Unemployment Insurance Code.

1     ~~SEC. 3.~~  
2     *SEC. 5.* Section 14013.5 is added to the Unemployment  
3 Insurance Code, to read:  
4     14013.5. The board shall assist the Office of the Chancellor  
5 and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges  
6 to develop a strategic plan for connecting education and workforce  
7 development in the state pursuant to Section 88550.7 of the  
8 Education Code.

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